

To the Honorable the Senate and House of
Representatives of the United States in Congress
assembled.

The petition of Samuel F. B. Morse of Po=
-keepsie in the State of New York, respectfully repre=
-sents, that he is the Inventor of the well known
and wide spread system of Electro Magnetic Tel=
-egraphs, which has become an institution, incorpo=
-rated into the administrative policy of nearly
every civilized community on the globe, as an indi=
-spensible and invaluable instrument of national
advantage. In diplomacy; in military and naval
service; in ordinary commerce; in police arrangements,
in social intercommunication, this Telegraphic Sys=
-tem has been proved to be of such extensive and ob=
-vious benefit, that your Petitioner in addressing the
cultivated minds of your honorable body, deems it
wholly unnecessary to enlarge on this point, convinced
that no extent of details will strengthen the patent
fact of its vast value.

Your Petitioner represents that his first Patent
for this invention was obtained, running for the term
of fourteen years from the 20th of June 1840. It was
surrendered for correction and reissued January 20th
1846, running for the term of fourteen years from
June 20th 1840. It was again surrendered for
correction and reissued June 13th 1848 running
fourteen years still from June 20th 1840 and consequently
would have expired on the 20th of June 1854 by its lim=
-itation; but in May 1854, your Petitioner in due form

of law made application to the Commissioner of Patents for an extension of time of this Patent, which application after a protracted and thorough examination was granted for the extended term of Seven years from June 20th 1854.

The Argument in this case of extension is herewith respectfully submitted marked A.

On the 11th of April 1846, a Second Patent for an improvement was granted, running for the term of fourteen years from that date.

This Second Patent which would have expired in April 1860, was extended in April last for seven years, on petition of your Petitioner after full and careful examination of evidence and facts presented. This Case was most ably argued before the Commissioner of Patents by the Hon. Charles Mason, a late incumbent of the Office; his Argument in the Case marked B, and the clear and comprehensive Decision of Hon Philip P. Thomas (the recent Commissioner of Patents) marked C, are respectfully herewith submitted.

Your Petitioner now, therefore, asks of your honorable body a further extension of his Patent of 1840, not for the full term of Seven years, usually asked for, but only for the more limited term of the expiration of his Second patent of 1846. The patent of 1846 expires on 11th of April 1867. The patent of 1840, extended Seven years in 1854, would expire in June 20th 1861, and if extended Seven years would expire in June 1868, but your Petitioner asks it may only be extended until the expiration of the Second patent in April 1867, so that the term of additional extension, will be but five years, nine months and twenty days, thus

the whole Telegraph Invention comprehended in the two patents will become public property at once. The two inventions for which your petitioner has obtained separate patents are so intimately related that like the Siamese twins, they are, so to speak, dependent in a measure upon the ligature which binds them together and makes them one, for effective use. A separation of the two, endangers the life of both. It is somewhat difficult without much detail, to show that mutual dependence and yet difference which connects the two together, nor is it necessary, since the lucid statements of the accompanying printed documents will best illustrate these features of the invention.

It can scarcely have escaped the notice of your honorable body that ever since the successful demonstration of the practicability and utility of his invention in 1844, your Petitioner for more than 15 years has been subjected to constant litigations in the courts, made necessary by the persistent attacks, upon his patented property, of those who sought to appropriate to themselves the results of his labors and expenditures. These litigations although uniformly resulting in decisions in his favor, have nevertheless been attended not only with great personal annoyance and loss of time which might have been used for the further benefit of the community, but also with vast expenditures of money.

Your Petitioner has been thus defrauded of the benefits which the Government in its just consideration of the Inventor, designed through the patent laws, he should possess. Your Petitioner, like a Country under Martial

law, has been compelled to keep himself on the war footing ready to repel any new attack.

At present the legal victories he has obtained have given him a temporary peace much needed at his advanced age, a peace which essentially depends in the future on the granting of your Petitioner's prayer by your honorable body. Should his petition be refused, it will be readily perceived that fresh points for litigation may arise from the anomalous position towards each of two parts of a whole Invention, separated in two Patents, expiring at different periods of time. By granting the extension prayed for, the whole invention comprehended in the two Patents will at one and the same time become the unembarrassed property of the public, while the Act shields your Petitioner from the possible, not to say probable litigations, which he may be called to meet.

The use of one part of the invention become the property of the public from the expiration of the patent for that part, while the other part is still held as a monopoly, produces a contingency which tends to litigation by tempting encroachment and making opportunities for infringement.

Grateful for the early aid of the Government which enabled him to demonstrate to the world the practicability and utility of his Invention, your Petitioner confidently relies upon the justice and generosity of your honorable body to grant

his petition, that by being relieved from the probabilities of further litigation, he may be able to devote the remaining energies, of the few years at most, of his life to the maturing of other plans for the benefit and honor of his Country and the world.

If it should be intimated that your Petitioner has already received sufficient remuneration from his Patents and therefore his prayer should be denied, it may be well to state that the amounts and condition of his property derived from the Invention, as a Patented property, have not materially changed since the last exhibit of them in the evidence before the Commissioner of Patents as given at page 10 of document A.

Should the extension be granted, your Petitioner will be in the additional receipt of some Thirty thousand dollars, but the principal advantage he will derive from the extension is the security and substantial consolidation of his Telegraph property derived from his Patents, otherwise put in peril. In this view of the case he earnestly prays the favorable consideration of his petition, and as in duty bound will ever pray

Sam^l F. B. Morse.

New York January 1861.

Under company
Trotter's of Mount
St. J. B. More for
the collection of
his various plants
for Geographical de-
scriptions -

From Dec. 1861. Return to the
Cotton on Plant

At the Cotton
the